

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, local TV channels in my area of the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a stronger alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen as quickly without the merger.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.